256 arrangement guarantees an adequate number of customers each day a mill is operating.

256 The miller must have some mechanical knowledge as well as capital and business ability.
402 Most of the mills are driven by an old automobile engine converted to operate on gas produced by a charcoal burner, usually made from an old oil drum. A belt drive transmits power and reduces the speed. Usually the owner (or manager in some cases) supervises the motor and the gas burner and an employee or member of the family feeds the maize into the mill and collects the charge, 1 centavo a kilo. In one case a woman occupied this post, but most of the mill operators are men.

Except for a few very poor families, everyone in Cherán now patronizes the mills. Each mill serves from about 330 to 360 customers a day.

*Wheat threshing.*—One wood-burning steam-
407 driven threshing machine has operated in Cherán for several years. The machine is stationary (although it could be moved, it is too cumbersome to do so), and the customers bring their wheat to the machine. Two tenders, who feed the wheat into the machine, and a water carrier are required besides the operator. Firewood is purchased. Exclusive of interest on the investment and repairs, the operator nets about 25 pesos a day above operating expenses.

In 1940 a smaller gasoline-driven thresher, which could be moved from house to house, was said to have made considerable inroads on the trade. However, as the bulk of the Cherán wheat is still threshed by hand, there seemed to be ample business for both threshing machines.

*Painters and plasterers.*—This is a rare occu-
338 pation followed by two or three men on a part-time basis. Only a minority of the houses of adobe or stone are plastered, and few of them are painted. The pay is fairly good, but the best worker probably does not put in more than 90 days' work a year. Brushes and stencils are used in painting.

*Masons.*—As the house owner normally pro-
333 vides all materials, the mason sells only his services. His equipment is a trowel, hammer, a board frame for holding mud mortar, a shovel for mixing mortar, an ax to cut poles for

256 402 433 434 ($9 every few weeks) is also an item not included. Some engines are equipped to saw wood, when not driving mills; pine logs are cut in lengths suitable for splitting into box lumber. The blocks are shipped in trucks to Uruapan, where they are split to make crates for shipping fruit. No data on costs or sales were secured on this minor business.

305 434 *Barbers:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Prices: | |
| Haircuts: | |
| Weekdays | $0.15 |
| Sundays | .20 |
| Shaves | .10–.15 |
| Number of "jobs" daily: | |
| Except Saturday | 4–8 |
| Saturday | 10–15 |
| Income (a week) | $6.00–$7.50 |

*Comment:* Average income is probably under $1.00 a day. One of the two full-time barbers (with the smallest income) supplements this by card playing. One barber works only on Sundays and makes shakes during the week.

533 434 *Musicians:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Wages: | |
| For 2-day fiesta | $10 |
| For wedding | 2 |
| Number of engagements (individual cases): | |
| (a) 6 fiestas, 15 weddings, in 9 months | 90 |
| (b) 5 fiestas, 5 weddings, period unknown | 60 |
| (c) 10 fiestas in 1 year | 100 |

*Comment:* The musicians obviously do not make a living from music. All have other sources of income; some are farmers, storekeepers, barbers, etc.

338 434 *Painters, plasterers:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Daily wage | $1.75–2.50 |

*Comment:* Painters and plasterers have only occasional demands for their skills. Only a few stone or adobe houses are plastered, and fewer still are painted. Most jobs are by contract.

529 433 434 *Billiard parlors:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Equipment | $1,500–$1,700 |
| Rent (monthly) | 10–20 |
| Charge per game | .05 |

*Comment:* No estimate of the amount of business was received. It is evident, though, that the enterprise is profitable, to judge by dress and other characteristics of the owners.

253 433 434 *Butchers:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Prices paid for beeves on hoof | $80–$150 |
| Prices reported paid at wholesale for beef weighing: | |

stone work used as doorjambs, door corners, and bases for the pillars of verandas where these rest on the ground.

## TILE AND BRICK

Tile and brick are little used. Some tile roofs are seen and tiles are sometimes laid over a shake roof when the latter is worn out. Both tile and brick are made from clay occuring near the town. The dry clay is brought to town on burros. The manufacture is carried on in an old chapel, and firing is in a kiln, both located in the church compound. The quality is poor and the demand is small.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Adobe-and-masonry walls are commonly finished on the inside and, less frequently, on the outside, with a coat of sand and lime plaster. This material is always imported. So, too, are the pigments used in whitewash or kalsomine finishes employed to decorate plastered walls.

## TYPES OF STRUCTURES

FIGURE 3.—Old *"troje"* in Cherán, said to have been built before the Revolution.

*la tarima"* (uanájɣukua). The foundation beams are square, from a third to a fourth of a *vara* (about 8 to 10 inches) in cross section, but the crosspiece is thinner by the thickness of the floor boards.

The two longest foundation beams and the

3:Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942)1944
NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

342 and a hammer are the other needed tools. As the
333 wall increases in height, a crude scaffolding is erected, usually on each side of the wall, and the mortar is placed on a small portable platform of planks (pl. 7, upper, left [5]).

[338] Adobe-brick walls are frequently finished with a coating of adobe plaster, plentifully mixed with animal dung if the wall is to be used for a house. Somewhat less frequently, a lime-plaster coating is used to cover the wall.

342 In Cherán, usually only front and side walls of
335 houses are made of brick or masonry. The back wall, and sometimes one side wall, will be of upright planks fitting into grooves in horizontal beams at top and bottom. Doors have door-jambs of stone and the doorposts rest on a stone base with a mortice to receive a tenon on the lower part of the post. A lintel at the top is morticed to the doorposts and extends beyond them on either side, being surrounded by masonry or bricks and supporting the wall if it continues above the door. Windows are made in the same way, but no stone is used.

Upon the leveled tops of the wall are laid wooden plates, or "*planchas*" (in this case also called "*plantillas*"). Across these are square joists, extending 2 or 3 feet beyond the walls. The ends are ornamentally carved. Across the ends of the joists, a second plate is sometimes laid and fastened to the joists with wooden pins, which sometimes pass through the joists and extend below them. The rafters are set into sockets

[5] The making of adobes and tiles will be described in another paper.

[p. 18a]